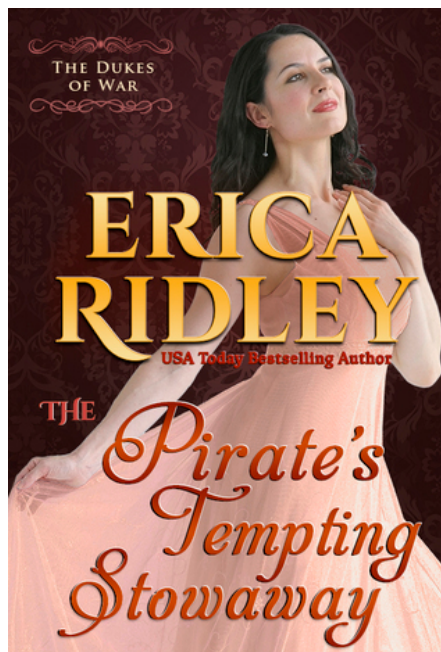




The Pirate's Tempting Stowaway

Erica Ridley

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The Pirate's Tempting Stowaway Erica Ridley

Captain Blackheart leads a simple life of roving the seas, wenching and treasure-hunting. He steers clear of romantic entanglements that could tie him to land. He shouldn't have any trouble keeping his hands off the gently-bred lady he's commissioned to abduct—except his cargo turns out to be feisty and passionate! She'd be a prize worth treasuring, if having her aboard didn't jeopardize everything...

Clara Halton thought the worst loss she could suffer was to be stripped of her family, stricken with consumption, and left to die alone. Then she meets Blackheart. Their attraction is ruinous...and irresistible. When he delivers her like so much plunder, his mission is over — but hers has just begun. She'll force him to acknowledge their connection, even if she must storm his ship to do it!

The Pirate's Tempting Stowaway Details

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Author : Erica Ridley

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From Reader Review The Pirate's Tempting Stowaway for online ebook

Linda says

Erica Ridley has knocked another one out of the ball park!

"The Pirates Tempting Stowaway", put a smile on my face from the very beginning. Why? Beachside it is not your typical historical romance; after all how many sons-in-laws would send a famous pirate to collect his mother-in-law? Well the unconventional Earl of Carlisle did just that. Too add to that we get to revisit some characters from previous books, kind of a homecoming!

Blackheart the pirate accepted a bounty from Carlisle to retrieve his ailing mother-in-law from America and transporter back to London unharmed, how hard could it be, easy money! So he thought! What Blackheart (Gregory Steele) did not expect was to find a woman in her forties in a run-down cottage left to fend for herself by her neighbors, who believe that she had consumption, he expected a frail old woman not the beautiful and yes sickly one pointing a three-barrel pistol at him! From the start Clara Halton has his attention and interest.

However will he keep his hands off her on the trip back to England!

Over the two-week voyage keeping his hands to himself becomes more challenging especially when it is obvious the lady would be more than agreeable to any advances. However as promised he delivers her to her family's door and

Departs for months with Clara unfortunately never from his mind, Clara finds herself living with her daughter in dowager's quarters but feeling like a third wheel and dreaming of adventure with Blackheart!

Feeling like a third wheel she decides to seek out a property of her own to give the love birds space, someplace close however while doing so she spots Blackheart's schooner and on a whim boards the ship and stows away!

Blackheart is floored, no one would ever dare think of stowing away on his ship, angry that she got away with it and elated at the same time his decision to not turn around and return her to London immediately is his downfall; because this woman will make him fall in love and consider things he never considered before, such as settling down!

Love the little twist and turns in the story and our heroine Clara was wonderfully forward for her time period! Arc copy graciously provided by Intrepid Press and Erica Ridley via Netgalley for an honest review.

Ruth says

This one, provided by the publisher in return for a review, was just an absolutely wonderful romp with a naughty, fun-loving pirate who doesn't stop swaggering from beginning to end, and an independent heroine, a born survivor and expert in making do, who finds herself tempted to adventure.

I loved reading this one. It was an exhilarating mixture of romance, excitement and high-seas shenanigans, which managed, however, to never stray beyond parody into silliness. I could honestly visualize Blackheart leaving a trail of exhausted yet happy women of every shape, size and nationality in his wake.

4 stars. I really liked it.

Ingie says

Review written May 26, 2017

2.8 Stars - A bit too light maybe but romantic enough

I listened to another of these The Dukes of War audiobook novellas, #1-The Viscount's Christmas Temptation (3.4 stars), by Erica Ridley in 2015. Another quickly done quite sweet story as I liked. Maybe nothing really unique or very memorable story or characters but enjoying when 'doing'. Worth \$2 was my conclusion then. — It was time for older MC's and a pirate gentleman...

* 4 hours audiobook narrated by Stevie Zimmerman *

Older characters, she 38 with a grownup daughter and he, the dangerous pirate, a true hero with some grey in his hair. Short and hopefully sweet.

« **Captain Blackheart** (aka Gregory Steele) leads a simple life of roving the seas, wenching and treasure-hunting. He steers clear of romantic entanglements that could tie him to land. He shouldn't have any trouble keeping his hands off the gently-bred lady (**Clara Halton**) he's commissioned to abduct - except his cargo turns out to be feisty and passionate! She'd be a prize worth treasuring, if having her aboard didn't jeopardize everything. »

A bit silly in a traditional simple romance style. Most things that happens are very easy to predict, as often in this (quickly done novella romance) genre, but after all, enough sweet and intriguing characters to make me finish the four hour audiobook. Okay, Probably completely forgotten in a few days, but nice while it lasted. Impeccable narration and audiobook edition as well.

Worth two bucks? ... Mmmm!?! ... Yes, I enjoyed while doing house chores like ironing summer dresses and stuff.

I LIKE - a sexy older pirate with whiskers. Ha ha!!

Cathy Geha says

Take a well-educated pirate, send him to pick up the mother of your new wife and then transport her back to England from America on his pirate ship and you end up with this fun romance, Captain Blackheart and Clara Halton are both around forty, from completely different backgrounds, have faced adversity, want adventure and are definitely attracted to one another. How can a woman who wants what she wants and a man who does not want to give up his way of life ever come to terms? Can they find a workable compromise? This romance is definitely more fun than fact BUT we all need a bit of escape from time to time, right? Great fun, great dialogue, interesting characters and fun around every corner – if you are in the

mood for a quick escape this might be the one for you.

3.5 Stars

Beth says

I've never read anything from Erica Ridley ... i think? I better go check, yes, she is a new author to me, love finding new authors, I will be checking out more of her very very soon, great read!! ... I didn't realize this is #6 ... eight books in this series. Love the cover. historical romance. Not a heavy read, great read for the summer or really any time ... just to escape the normal every day life... Fun great read! (;

Book Gannet says

This book is ridiculous. Sorry, but it is. I've been a fan of this series right from the start, and since both of these characters make appearance in earlier books (The Earl's Defiant Wallflower and The Major's Faux Fiancée) I was really looking forward to this one. Especially as it contained an older couple.

And the first section was just what I'd expect from this author and this series, with Blackheart/Steele travelling to pick up Clara. Her situation is desperate, he proves himself to have a heart beneath his piratical reputation and as they sail back to England together a tentative relationship forms. Sure, the whole idea that he has to share the bed with her every night – without anything actually happening – was pretty tenuous, but it was all sweet and promising.

Then they got home. Once the threads connecting their stories to the other books were tied off this book went bonkers. It didn't just jump the shark, I think it leapfrogged a mammoth, tap danced across a blue whale, waltzed with a colony of penguins and declared itself King of the World! Because everything that happened afterwards was just... ridiculous.

Firstly, given its name Carlisle Manor is an estate, which normally has a few tenant houses hanging around and maybe a dower house, which would be perfect for Clara to move into. Since that isn't the case, and her lungs are obviously damaged, why is living in London a good idea? Obviously it isn't, but if she wants to stay near her daughter, why move down to Somerset? Don't get me wrong, Somerset is a lovely county, I'm very fond of it, but it's a fair trek from London, especially in the 19th century. None of those plans made sense. Nor did the fact that she sets off house hunting alone. I know she's been away for a long while, but I'd have expected someone – a maid, her daughter, perhaps a solicitor or some sort of secretary to go with her. Yes, she's a widow, but it would have been extremely bold for her to have been travelling alone. And potentially dangerous.

Of course, if she'd had company it would have made stowing away rather difficult, so I guess that's why. Speaking of that stowing away moment... I know she hides for a bit, but since they're sailing out of London, that means they have to get down the Thames first. Which was about 30+ nautical miles along a busy stretch of tidal river, until they reached the North Sea. I have to admit I'm not sure where the map actually led them, but I got the impression that they then sailed down the English Channel, which meant they passed the entire length of southern England, and there wasn't one single place where they could have dropped off the stowaway, rather than take her into a potentially perilous fight with a bunch of pirates?

Apparently not. Instead Clara acts like a fifteen year old, Steele just wants to get her naked and the next thing we know it's *Treasure Island* meets *Pirates of the Caribbean*. I have serious doubts about Clara's rowing abilities, as a woman with bad lungs and no need for upper body strength, but all that bothers her is that it makes her arms ache. Add in the whole island adventure and I gave up on this book ever making any real sense.

Then comes they childish expectations, the demands, the refusal, the upset, the sudden seeing of the light and immediate u-turn on all previous thoughts. And then the enemy is sighted in Whitby. *Whitby*? When did the Crimson Corsair turn into Dracula? (No offence meant to Whitby, but it's not quite the first place I associate with pirates. Well, not since the Vikings anyway.)

Also, was I the only person who was distracted by the ship's name – *Dark Crystal*? I kept expecting Fizzgig to show up and bite someone. Which would definitely have improved everything for me. I also had my doubts about just how easily that ship sailed everywhere. He's supposed to be a pirate! Yet he swans into London without a care.

As I said, ridiculous. The idea that Steele is a pirate is completely unbelievable from the start – then again, a real, genuine pirate isn't really romance material. I never quite understood how he turned from a press-ganged lawyer into a privateer with his own ship either. The sailing happens in an eye-blink without any kind of weather getting involved, Clara has moments of really irritating childishness, the action is farcical, the romance is pretty boring and the whole Crimson Corsair plot line is a massive disappointment that doesn't actually go anywhere.

Which all makes me kind of sad. The rest of the series has been fun and enjoyable, a little silly here and there perhaps, but romantic and sweet. This was just too silly for me, especially after it started so promisingly. If you're looking for an adventurous romp that's more fantastical than historical and definitely takes its idea of pirates from a certain Johnny Depp/Disney franchise, then you'll probably enjoy this. There is adventure here and romance, but the silliness of both undermined the whole thing and it barely held my attention let alone won me over. Sorry, but I think I'll be glossing over this one in future while I enjoy the rest of the series.

(I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.)

HR-ML says

Story took place in 1816.

Gregory Steele was a privateer then became the #2 pirate in the world, feared & known as "Captain Blackheart." He chased and wanted to steal gold/ other treasures from #1 pirate The Crimson Corsair (TCC).

Overbearing and swaggering hero Greg received promise of payment from an earl to transport, unharmed, an ill lady (H assumed elderly) Mrs. Clara Halton from Philadelphia to England.

Reportedly Clara had consumption x 6 months. The ship's

surgeon examined Clara & concluded she had pneumonia. Or a respiratory infection from breathing dirty air and having insufficient nutrition. Pneumonia and respiratory infections BOTH involve an infection which could spread throughout the body. There is no way Clara would have lived 6 months with an infection! She'd be dead.

I stopped reading at 74%. Slightly ahead of this, Clara made a TSTL decision to leave the ship of the "good pirates" Greg etc in order to help battle the "bad pirates" TCC and his comrades. Huh?? She wanted to partake of a pirate war?

This author has written much better books- please see Dukes of War series #2 through #4.

Toula says

This a Historical Romance book 6 in the series . This was a great read by the great author . This story is about Clara Halton our Heroine and Captain Blackheart our Hero .

Clara lives in the New World (the USA) as it was known back then. She thought she was dying of Consumption. So she sent her daughter back to England. Clara had a huge disagreement with her parents so she found a good man to take in her and her daughter . They moved to America

We have Captain Blackheart who is a pirate . His given name is Gregory . Captain Blackheart use to be a Barrister until he was forced to join the Navy during the war . Once the war ended he decided to go into business for himself . . The Captain was paid to go to America and find Clara by an Earl . The said Earl was Marrying Clara daughter . When the Captain arrived at Clara doorstep she pulled a gun on him. Once the Captain sees the living conditions Clara was living in he knew it wasn't Consumption. He took her on his ship and they went on their way to England . There was a few funny moments and lovely moments on the ship. The Captain did tell Clara that he needs water to live. There was no way that the Captain can stay on dry land.

Clara made up with her parents and her father had a surprise for her . Grab it and find out what the surprise was.

Clara went to stay with her daughter in the dowerges house but Clara kept on thinking about the Captain. Clara thought after so much time he must have left port

She was in London for a visit . Then trying to find a place of her own. She was at a place to eat and sure enough Surprise surprise she saw the Captains boat . She thought that was a sign from above ... She got on the boat . And after a while she realized the ship had sailed . She was stuck as a stowaway. How did Captain Blackheart react to her being on the boat . What kind of adventure did Clara have . Grab it and find our

Jeffrey says

"Buckle down yer chinstraps, matey, cause yer goin' on a rollicking high seas adventure with a genuine

pirate!" Meet Gregory Steele, AKA Captain Blackheart, who was forcibly conscripted into the royal navy as a teenager. Blackheart has made the most of his naval life as a privateer for the English crown, amassed wealth from the spoils of war, and created a legendary persona that strikes fear and awe in all who encounter him. Commissioned by the Earl of Carlisle to kidnap his dear wife's mother from illness and destitution in Pennsylvania, it begins as just another task for him but he's never met a woman quite like Mrs. Clara Halton! Expecting to rescue a little old lady, Blackheart instead encounters a lovely, intoxicating and very-much-alive 39 year old woman who charms the captain and his entire crew on the return voyage to England. Clara initially wants nothing more than to settle into the quiet English countryside with her daughter and new son-in-law. Blackheart wants nothing to do with dry land as he roams the sea in quest of the next adventure in his swift schooner The Dark Crystal. But an enormous emotion called LOVE looms between these two and throws their lives into a delightful turmoil. How on earth will they reconcile this wonderful feeling? Can they? The author has fashioned an outrageously improbable romantic adventure full of "swash and buckle," overflowing with all of the clichés found in this genre. What a page-turning delightfully entertaining romantic read this is. Get your pirate fix with this 6th installment of The Dukes of War series.

Elaine says

If you like historic romances with a privateer turned pirate and a feisty, forty-year old widow adventuring the seas, this is a great story for you!

This is the sixth book in this regency romance series and, whilst it may be read as a standalone, it is great to reconnect with characters from earlier books in the series and understand the back story. It started with stories about four friends returning from war but this one concerns bringing home from America the mother of the bride of one of those four, the Earl of Carlisle (from The Earl's Defiant Wallflower). The Earl hires Mr Gregory Steele, who is more notorious as the privateer turned pirate Captain Blackheart, to escort Mrs Clara Halton back to his wife, Grace, who had been born and brought up in America before her very sick mother sent her to England. Blackheart is dismayed to find Mrs Halton living in total isolation, supposedly dying of consumption - but he's not convinced that's what ails her and still takes her to his ship to sail her home. The journey shouldn't be too onerous and the pay is good but he finds that whilst she is a lady, she's also strong willed, stubborn - and passionate! Their attraction is mutual but he's promised to protect her and deliver her safely home. Will they part never to see each other again? Can they resist each other? Now she's been given a taste for adventure, will she seek more? Can he make room in his heart for love?

This is a superb and possibly superior addition to the series. It is great to have the romance developing between a more mature couple who have had very different but traumatic histories. A lawyer, he was press ganged into the navy. As a seventeen year old innocent she was violated and abandoned before finding a love who was tragically killed soon after they arrived in America, leaving her to raise her daughter disowned by her parents and alone in the new world. It is a thrilling, swashbuckling tale with pirates, passion, problems and puzzles, a great story to escape into and one I highly recommend!

Thanks to the author, publisher and NetGalley, too, for letting me read an ARC of this book in exchange for this, an honest review.

Lexxie (un)Conventional Bookworms says

*I received a free ARC of The Pirate's Tempting Stowaway from Intrepid Reads via Netgalley in exchange

of an honest and unbiased review*

The Pirate's Tempting Stowaway is delightful - filled with fun, adventure and an epic romance between two very unlikely characters. This review was originally posted on (un)Conventional Bookviews

Heike says

Notorious pirate brings a lady from America to England as "paid cargo". They reluctantly fall for each other, but struggle with their different lifestyles. Sweet story, yet the notorious pirate was too much of a push over to be really believable. Good read nevertheless that almost made it to four stars if I would not have started skimming a bit over their struggles.

I liked that both protagonists were in their late thirties, and that they didn't jump each other in a matter of 20 pages. Yet the story was sometimes a bit all over the place. I thought the story-line was very predictable but was surprised with a different outcome. HEA, of course, all around.

Narration: 3rd person; one fairly explicit sex scene, but not very long; lots of kissing and holding.

Barbara Rogers says

This was a thoroughly delightful read!!! The writing was excellent, the characters well developed and the story plot line was unique. I loved both of the main characters from the very beginning. There wasn't any of the angst, Oh Woe Is Me sorts of themes that we see so often. One of the very best things is that the H/h are both older than usual. I really liked them and the book!

Hannah says

ARC REVIEW

The Dukes of War continues with the delightful story of Clara Halton and Captain Gregory Steele aka Blackheart. This story runs parallel with book two The Earl's Defiant Wallflower and book three The Captain's Bluestocking Mistress. I'm so happy that Clara got her HEA, her daughter Grace found hers and now that Grace has her own life to live Clara deserves one of her own. I love Erica Ridley's writing, it's always such a pleasure to get one of her ARCs especially this series.

Captain Blackheart was paid by an earl to bring to London his soon-to-be-wife's mother, Blackheart expecting an old woman accepted the job gladly; but when he got to America and the small town outside of Philadelphia where she was residing he finds a beautiful woman who thinks she is dying of consumption. Clara sent her daughter to London to claim her inheritance; Clara married beneath her station and her mother had a fit and disinherited her. Clara believing she has consumption didn't tell her daughter because she knew Grace wouldn't leave if she knew. It took some convincing on Blackheart's part to get her to leave, but as soon as Clara was on the open seas she got better. Clara also discovered she loved being on The Dark Crystal, she enjoyed being razed by the sailors, the fresh open air and mostly she loved sleeping in Blackheart's arms each night.

Once in London, Clara was delivered safely to her family and the past forgiven should have been happy with

her daughter, but she doesn't want to be one of those mothers who spends all her time with her daughter, she wanted a life of her own. She sees her chance when she sees The Dark Crystal docked in port. Clara takes a risk and stows away. Blackheart thought he left Clara behind, thinking he could never have her as much as he has fallen in love with her she would have no place in his life. But here she is a stowaway, and now that she is no longer the cargo there is nothing stopping him from seducing her. Blackheart is worried about Clara's safety, he is going after his nemesis, The Crimson Corsair. Clara however proves she isn't just safe but helpful too.

Overall this was a great addition to the Dukes of War series and I look forward to the next one.

Candace says

Gregory Steele is the notorious Captain Blackheart. Mrs. Clara Halton is a widower. Blackheart is hired to bring Clara from America to London, England. She is to be reunited with her daughter, Grace. Love grows between Gregory and Clara. Captain Blackheart is pursuing the Crimson Corsair, a blood-thirsty pirate. Gregory's home is his ship. Clara wants to put down roots near her daughter. Will Gregory and Clara's love survive different viewpoints? Will Captain Blackheart succeed in capturing the Crimson Corsair?

I kept turning the pages to discover what happens next. This reader came to care about the characters. The plot is simple and familiar. I look forward to the next book in this series.
